REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 27-61 were pending in this application. New claims 62-64 have been added. Claims 17-26, 32-41 and 47-56 are canceled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to present one or more of the canceled claims in one or more divisional applications. Claims 27, 42 and 57 have been amended herein. The claim amendments do not add new matter to this application.

Claims 27-31, 42-46 and 57-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,806,890 to Audleman et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,202,199 to Wygodny et al. The rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Independent claim 27, as amended herein, recites the step of:

> assigning a child status or next status for each of the actions in a user-specified hierarchical order to set the order of execution of the number of actions in the application.

Thus, this claim calls for assigning a child status or next status for each action in the application as the business rules based application is constructed. For example, as can be seen in Figure 11, the action designated by reference number 110 has been set as "Next to current statement" (see bottom of Figure 11). Alternatively, as shown in Figure 31, the action "Diaplay the output" (sic) is shown as being set as a "Child to current statement". By using the "Next to current statement" and "Child to current statement" selection boxes, a user can easily specify and move the hierarchy of actions. Thus, the next action can be placed at the same level as the current

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action or statement or it can be placed below or as a "child" to the current statement, such as when a conditional action is specified.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Audleman nor Wygodny disclose the above-described feature. More specifically, in the official action, the Examiner agreed that Audleman does not disclose a user-specified hierarchical order to set the order of execution of the number of actions in the application. To cure such deficiency, the Examiner attempts to rely on Wygodny. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Wygodny does not disclose this missing feature. Wygodny discloses a debugger with a trace program that traces the execution of an application after the application has been created and executed. The trace shows a hierarchical tree of the actions that are executed after the application is run. Wygodny, however, does not disclose assigning a child status or a next status to each action when constructing the application to allow the user to set the hierarchical order of execution of the actions in constructing the business rules based application. Therefore, claim 27, as amended herein, is believed to be distinguishable from and patentable over the applied combination of Audleman and Wygodny.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 27, amended independent claim 42 and 57 are also believed to be distinguishable from and patentable over the applied combination of Audleman and Wygodny.

Claims 28-31, 43-46 and 58-64 depend from one of independent claims 27, 42 and 57, and, at least due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Audleman and Wygodny.
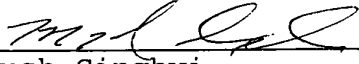
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If,

however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: November 22, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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